(b) whether this SPM level of pollution was responsible for a rise of 28% in deaths in 1995;

(c) whether the SPM level is three times higher than the permissible level; and

(d) if so, what action Government are taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the lead content in the atmosphere in Delhi has dropped by 61% after introduction of unleaded petrol. The annual mean concentration of suspended particulate matter (SPM) for all the monitoring stations, located in residential areas has indicated decreasing trend since 1995 when the annual average was 409 ug/m^3 as compared to 341 ug/m^3 in 1998.

(b) There is no conclusive scientific data to establish that the SPM was responsible for rise of 28% deaths in 1995.

(c) According to the CPCB, the suspended particulate matter (SPM) levels in residential areas are exceeding the prescribed standards by a factor of 2 to 3, whereas in the industrial areas the SPM levels are generally within the limits but at times exceed the standard by a factor of 1.5 on annual average basis.

(d) The measures taken by the Government to control pollution including SPM levels are as under:

☆ An Action Plan for Delhi has been prepared and is under implementation.

☆ Environment pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority for the National Capital Region of Delhi has been constituted under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for control of pollution in Delhi.

☆ To control vehicular emissions, the standards have been laid down. The Government of NCT of Delhi is implementing these emission standards.

☆ Catalytic convertor equipped passenger cars have been introduced from April 1, 1995.

☆ Shifting of polluting units in conforming Industrial Areas.

☆ Closing of hazardous units in Delhi.

☆ Introduction of unleaded petrol in Delhi with effect from September 1, 1998.

☆ Fuel quality specifications for petrol and diesel driven vehicles have been notified effective from 1.4.1996 and 1.4.2000.

☆ Retrofitment of CNG kits for Government vehicles.

☆ Low sulphur diesel (0.25%) has been introduced in Delhi effective from 1.4.1998.

☆ Specification of 2-stroke engine oil has been notified effective from 1.4.1999.

☆ Pre-mixed 2-T oils are being supplied in the retail fuel outlets in Delhi to prevent the sale of low-quality fuel.

☆ Inter-sectoral committee has been constituted during 1997 to finalize more stringent emission norms effective from 1.4.2005 for vehicles at the manufacturing stage.

☆ Promotion of use of alternative/clean fuels.

☆ Mass emission norms are being progressively tightened.

☆ Phasing out of 15 years old commercial vehicles.

Floods in Kaziranga National Park

2812. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-report which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated the 7th September, 1998 under the caption, "No animals in flooded Kaziranga";

(b) if so, what is the extent of damage caused to the animals in flooded Kaziranga National Park;

(c) the details of action plan for rehabilitation of the National Park; and

(d) the long term plan formulated to deal with exigencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Assam Government have constructed high islands/dikes, to serve as save places for animals during floods. However, the spell of flood this year was too long and animals, mentioned below, dies due to non availability of grasses for feeding purpose.

Name of the Species	No. of animals died during 1998 floods
Rhino	35
Elephant	7
Wild Buffalo	22
Swamp deer	8
Wild boar	19
Sambhar	13
Hog dear	983
Hog badger	7
Porcupine	9
Fishing cat	2

Besides, the above animals carcasses of two fishing cats, one monitor lizard, four Cobras, three pythons, two civets and one langoor have also been recovered.

(c) and (d) The steps contemplated to safeguard against such mortalities are:

(i) Adding more islands to the area of the park.

(ii) Desilting water bodies and construction of dikes.

(iii) Declaration of Karbinglong area as a sanctuary and to provide the animals, corridors for moving to this hilly area during rains.

Relocation of Delhi Zoological Gardens

2813. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to relocate Delhi Zoological Gardens to make space for high rise buildings;

(b) whether Government's attention has also been drawn to the new-item which appeared in the Statesman, Delhi edition, dated 25th March, 1999 in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) No such proposal is under consideration.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) This Ministry does not agree with the relocation of Delhi Zoological Gardens. The reasons as to why relocation is not contemplated are given below:—

(i) The zoo, at its present site, provides a green lung to the congested and thickly populated area of Delhi;

(ii) The present location of the zoo is very convenient to the visitors and they can take advantage of the zoo with minimum resources and even with marginal time available with them;

(iii) Shifting of the zoo would render the infrastructure that has been constructed over the years infructuous and useless;

(iv) Creation of similar infrastructure at a new location would be quite costly because the prices of building material as well equipment have increased significantly over the years.